

REMARKS

This response is intended to supplement the March 31, 2006 response to the Office Action dated December 20, 2005. In view of the following discussion, the Applicants believe that all claims are in allowable form.

§112 Claims 1-13

Claims 1-13 stand rejected as being indefinite due to the limitation “an etching gas mixture comprising a fluorine-rich fluorocarbon or hydrofluorocarbon gas, a nitrogen-containing gas, and a hydrogen-rich hydrofluorocarbon gas.”

In addition to the remarks provided in the March 31, 2006 response, the Applicants further provide that the terms “fluorine-rich fluorocarbon or hydrofluorocarbon gas” and “hydrogen-rich hydrofluorocarbon gas” are definite and allowable under 35 USC §112. Specifically, the term “fluorine-rich fluorocarbon or hydrofluorocarbon gas” is defined in the specification and examples given at least in paragraph [0030] such that one skilled in the art would understand the meaning of the term. In addition the term “hydrogen-rich hydrofluorocarbon gas” is defined in the specification and examples given at least in paragraph [0032] such that one skilled in the art would understand the meaning of the term.

Thus, the Applicants submit that claims 1-13 comply with 35 USC §112 and are patentable thereunder. Accordingly, the Applicants respectfully request that the rejection be withdrawn and the claims allowed.

CONCLUSION

Thus, the Applicants submit that all claims now pending are in condition for allowance. Accordingly, both reconsideration of this application and its swift passage to issuance are earnestly solicited.

If, however, the Examiner believes that any unresolved issues still exist, it is requested that the Examiner telephone Mr. Alan Taboada at (732) 935-7100 so that appropriate arrangements can be made for resolving such issues as expeditiously as possible.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date

/Alan Taboada/

Alan Taboada, Esq.

Reg. No. 51,359

(732) 935-7100

Moser IP Law Group

1040 Broad Street, 2nd Floor

Shrewsbury, NJ 07702